



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS**  
**QUARTERLY ROUNDTABLE MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montano led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Eleanor Montano, Chair  
Helen Stathatos, Vice Chair  
Frank S. Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
Rita Hall  
John A. Hammagren  
Carl Moore

**Others Present**

Commander Detta Roberts, Sheriff's Department  
Ronald Hudson, Probation Department  
Carla Carr, Auditor-Controller  
Alan Henry, State of California Community Care Licensing  
Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services Division  
Audra Galang, Commission Services Division Staff

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT** — Commander Roberts reported on the segregation of inmates in the jails that will begin in November 2006. She also reported the difficulties and congestion inside the jails, the ACLU injunction, the holding system, and that transport may be changing some routes. She said that the February gang disturbances were resolved, but explained that the gang wars begin in the street and come into jail. The Sheriff's Department is working with outside agencies including the clergy and community-based agencies such as American at NCCF and Image 21. It has a major program that started two months ago and had some training at the executive and staff levels.

She also reported that the funding for the Sybil Brand Institute is three to four years away. The academy will be moved to Bizcailuz Center next spring because of facility issues and the Antelope Valley Academy will be opening next month. The main academy will have six classes of 400 to 500 trainees at a time. The master plan of the new facility was for women. She also reported that the Board of Supervisors requested a security audit team to review security and personnel issues at the Sheriff's facilities.

**PROBATION DEPARTMENT** — Mr. Ronald Hudson reported the following activities in the past six months:

1. There have been 10-12 group home closures.
2. There have been five reports of sexual abuse.
3. There is an average of 20-30 runaways each month and the number rises during the holidays.
4. The general number of complaints by minors against staff in group homes is 20-23, but only a couple are substantiated.
5. Successes by minors include that three to four received scholarships and one received the John Wooden Award.
6. Media items included the recent article of the Los Angeles Times dated October 21, 2006 entitled, "Optimist Home Creed Inspires Troubled Children."
7. There were two group homes placed on the "Do Not Refer" list.
8. Assaults against minors by staff don't regularly happen. There are five employees who investigate these types of allegations and while minors often alleged these complaints, most were unfounded.

He explained that victims, witnesses, administrators, perpetrators and police must be interviewed and investigated before corrective actions are taken and that after discussion of the issue, the department can change their course of action. He agreed that the system can be improved through staff increases.

He added that there are procedures to address the misconduct of Probation Department

employees or staff and that the Internal Affairs Unit in Downey handles these complaints through channels of authority. After the Ombudsman investigates the issue, it goes to the Probation Department then to the Bureau Chief. Finally corrective actions are imposed.

He explained that the department is focusing on outcome measures where monthly visits will be conducted at each of the 130 group homes to determine needs for improvement. He further stated that each group home owner would be required to receive 40 hours of training each year. Mr. Hudson agreed to research the issue of minors being provided with an information packet of their rights and report back at the next meeting. He also agreed to inquire if a copy of the reports can be made available to the Commission.

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES – No representative present.** The Commission discussed the importance of representation from DCFS during the Quarterly Roundtable Meeting.

**AUDITOR–CONTROLLER** — Ms. Carla Carr welcomed questions by the Commission.

**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH – No representative present.** The Commission discussed the importance of representation from Mental Health during the Quarterly Roundtable Meeting.

**COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING (CCL)** – Mr. Alan Henry reported on the license revocation of the Racyouth Center dba Bill's Place, 127 E. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA, effective June 3, 2006. CCL is also shutting down the Affirmative Action Group Home. He also reported that the October 2006 Sybil Brand Commission's inspection list was provided. Chair Montano requested the State's quarterly list of closed homes.

Mr. Henry reported that the Governor's staffs are developing a new group home program. He requested that the Auditor-Controller work with Community Care Licensing (CCL) in closing group homes and stated that joint visits with CCL are available by calling Ms. Lenora Copland. Mr. Henry said that he has a full list of Culver City group homes that can be requested by calling the Monterey Park's Office at (310) 568-1808 or by accessing through their web page. He recommends calling their office before visiting the assigned group homes to determine if the homes are still open.

Upon discussion of guidelines on children's personal rights and their nutrition, Mr. Henry shared with the Commission that that information can be accessed through their website [www.cclld.ca.gov](http://www.cclld.ca.gov). He reported that a personal rights poster should be posted at the group homes. The poster is available online and he will bring one for the next meeting.

Chair Montano and the Commissioners thanked the representatives of the Departments and the State Community Care Licensing for their attendance and informative presentations.

### **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 18, 2006 MINUTES MEETING**

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of October 18, 2006 were approved with the following corrections:

**Page 2, Affirmative Action Group Home – 1, #1 ADD:** Chair Montano gave a 5-page list of items of concern entitled, "AAPUL" (see attached) and they purchased three computers and three laptops that are on top of everything else.

**Bourne Group Home 37, #2 ADD:** The Commissioners will revisit the facility within the next six weeks.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montano shared with the Commissioners the Los Angeles Times news article dated October 21, 2006 entitled, "Optimist Home Creed Inspires Troubled Children."

She shared with the Commissioners that the Sybil Brand Commission's Christmas Luncheon will be on December 6, 2006 at Taix Restaurant, 1911 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Montano received an invitation from the West Angeles Church of God in Christ. This event is in commemoration of the 9th Annual Law Enforcement, Military and Fire Appreciation Day on Sunday, February 18, 2007 at the 8:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. services in the West Angeles Cathedral, 3600 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. Interested attendees are Chair Montano, Commissioners Moore and Hall and will RSVP on January 22, 2007.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,154.00.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Barbee reported the following:

1. The new inspection form of the Sybil Brand Commission for Courts, Custody/Jails, Probation and Sheriff Facilities was updated and shared with the Commissioners.
2. The check for CSUS/ICAN Training Conference was given to Chair Montano for delivery at the event.

**FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS**

**Allen's Teen Care, Inc. – 2, #2**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on October 23, 2006 and found excellent programs that included individual, family and group counseling. Other services included psychiatric evaluation, neurological testing, drug and alcohol awareness, aftercare services, camping trips, swimming lessons, tutoring program, vocational training, an emancipation program, beauty imaging and social clubs.

**Children Home of Southern California – 13, #4**

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on October 23, 2006 and found it is well run with a homelike atmosphere.

**Washington Hancock Home for Girls – 110, #3**

Commissioners Moore and Bacio visited this facility on October 24, 2006 and found it in **satisfactory** condition except with minor areas of concern. Fire and/or disaster drills were not being conducted. Fire extinguishers were charged but not reflecting the current expiration date. The house rules and client rosters were not posted. The Dodge Caravan minivan needed sweeping.

**FUTURE FACILITY/GROUP HOME VISITS FOR UPCOMING WEEK**

Chair Montano assigned group home visits for the following week.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were none.

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA)**

There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Barbee  
Chief, Commission Services Division

Attachment